

MAFL Funds: Season 2007

Where Statistics Meets Leather and Grass

20 May 2007

Season 2007, Number 8.1

In this Edition of the newsletter:

- Results of wagers and tips for Round 8
- Update on the **Alternative Premierships**

Favourites Favoured



Head-to-Head Ade \$1.11 / Ric \$6.00 (Adelaide 83-90%)

Line Betting Adelaide -32.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Adelaide 14.15 (99)

def Richmond 14.6 (90)

Line Betting Richmond by 23.5pts

Geelong **Fremantle** Kardinia Park 19th May, 2:10pm

Head-to-Head Gee \$1.36 / Fre \$3.00 (Geelong 67-74%)

Line Betting Geelong -18.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Geelong 14.10 (94) def

Fremantle 10.9 (69)

Line Betting

Geelong by 6.5pts

Essendon Brisbane Lions Telstra Dome 19th May, 2:10pm

> Head-to-Head Ess \$1.87 / BL \$1.87 (Both 47-53%)

Line Betting Essendon -6.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Essendon 18.19 (127) def

Brisbane 8.15 (63)

Line Betting Essendon by 57.5pts

Collingwood Telstra Dome 20th May, 2:10pm

Head-to-Head WB \$1.87 / Col \$1.87 (Both 47-53%)

Line Betting Bulldogs -6.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Bulldogs 20.15 (135) def

Collingwood 14.18 (102)

Line Betting Bulldogs by 26.5pts Hawthorn

St Kilda MCG

19th May, 7:10pm Head-to-Head

Haw \$2.20 / StK \$1.62 (St Kilda 55-62%)

Line Betting Hawthorn +6.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet WON 5.28% (4.71%)

Alpha Fund Bet WON 1.93% (1.87%)

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Hawthorn 10.12 (72) def

St Kilda 6.8 (44)

Line Betting

Hawthorn by 34.5pts

West Coast



Kangaroos

Carlton Carrara Stadium 19th May, 7:10pm

Head-to-Head Kan \$1.53 / Car \$2.40 (Kangaroos 58-65%)

Line Betting Kangaroos -11.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Kangaroos 22.15 (147)

def **Carlton** 20.10 (130)

Line Betting Kangaroos by 5.5pts Sydney

Port Adelaide SCG 20th May, 1:10pm

Head-to-Head Syd \$1.65 / PA \$2.15 (Sydney 54-61%)

Line Betting Sydney -7.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet WON 4.75% (4.32%)

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

Sydney 17.16 (118) def

Port Adelaide 13.9 (87)

Line Betting Sydney by 23.5pts **Bulldogs**

Melbourne Subiaco 20th May, 2:40pm

Head-to-Head WC \$1.16 / Mel \$4.75 (West Coast 79-86%)

Line BettingWest Coast -29.5 pts

Heritage Fund Bet

Alpha Fund Bet

Beta Fund Bet

Line Fund Bet

West Coast 19.23 (137)

def **Melbourne** 9.6 (60)

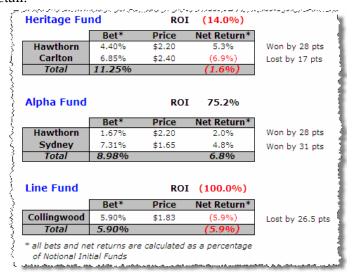
Line Betting

West Coast by 47.5pts

A Modest Profit

Three of our five bets were successful this weekend, two of these successes thanks to Hawthorn, who won convincingly over the Saints at the G on Saturday night, and the third success thanks to the Swans, who led at every change and went on to win by 31 points over Port Adelaide at the SCG on Sunday, despite something of a scare mid way through the final term.

Here's the detail:



For investors with the Recommended Portfolio weightings, this meant a net increase in total initial funds of just under 1½% for the weekend. Amongst the other strategies, C and E were also profitable, due entirely to the solid performance of the Alpha Fund, whilst strategies B and D recorded losses due to their relatively heavy dependence on the still-struggling Line Fund.

Here's where that leaves each Investor:

Overall Fund Performance								
	Fund Return	Heritage +10.40%		Beta (-4.43%)	Line (-24.78%)			
Joined [Swapped]	Strategy	Heritage	Alpha	Beta	Line	Overall Return		
		(F	ercentage	in each Fu	nd)			
Pre-Season	A*	20%	35%	35%	10%	+1.55%		
Pre-Season	В	25%	25%	25%	25%	(-2.20%)		
Pre-Season	С	30%	30%	30%	10%	+2.31%		
Pre-Season	D	0%	0%	0%	100%	(-24.78%)		
Pre-Season	E	20%	30%	30%	20%	(-1.20%)		
Round 6	A*	20%	35%	35%	10%	+4.44%		
Pre-Season [Round 7]	To C from A	30%	30%	30%	10%	+0.94%		

Whilst it wasn't an incredibly lucrative round this week, I'll be happy if we can graft out average returns for the Recommended Portfolio weightings of around $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ % per round for the rest of the season.

The following table, making its appearance for the first time this year, shows the round-by-round performance of each Fund and how each this has translated into profit or loss for Investors with the Recommended Portfolio weightings.

 Three out of five bets were winners, leading to profitability for those with strategies A, C and E.

Round-by-Round Performance of Each Fund

	Heritage		Alpha		Beta		Li	ne	Weighted*	
	Bet %	Ret %	Bet %	Ret %	Bet %	Ret %	Bet %	Ret %	Bet %	Ret %
R2	29.47%	19.90%							5.89%	3.98%
R3	15.47%	0.15%							3.09%	0.03%
R4	13.75%	(13.75%)			7.04%	(7.04%)			5.21%	(5.21%)
R5	23.24%	(8.32%)	2.70%	2.32%			38.96%	(9.35%)	9.49%	(1.79%)
R6	20.90%	12.39%			2.00%	1.60%	13.68%	1.08%	6.25%	3.15%
R7	1.95%	1.60%	2.50%	1.00%	2.50%	1.00%	10.62%	(10.62%)	3.20%	(0.04%)
R8	11.24%	(1.57%)	8.92%	6.68%			5.89%	(5.89%)	5.96%	1.44%
Total	116.01%	10.40%	14.12%	10.00%	11.53%	(4.43%)	69.15%	(24.78%)	39.10%	1.55%

* based on Recommended Portfolio Weightings

This table is quite a useful way to illustrate the distinguishing characteristics of the different Funds.

- The Heritage Fund bets often and bets heavily. As a consequence of this, already after just 8 rounds, the Funds in the Heritage Fund have turned 1.16 times. Note the variability in the weekly returns on this Fund too.
- The Alpha and Beta Funds are much more conservative. They've each only bet in 3 of the 5 weeks for which they've been active (recall that they are inactive in rounds 1 to 3), and they generally have only 1 or 2 bets in a weekend. Only 14% of the funds in Alpha and 11½% of the funds in Beta have turned. The Alpha Fund has been profitable in each of the 3 weekends during which it has wagered, and the Beta Fund has been profitable in 2 of the 3 weekends during which it has wagered.
- The Line Fund is ... well, the Line Fund. Sometimes it makes only a single bet in a round, sometimes it makes 4 bets. Each bet is usually a substantial portion of the Fund, with the result that almost 70% of funds in the Line Fund have already turned this year. Returns have been depressingly and consistently negative.

The last column of this table provides information about the round-by-round results for those Investors with the Recommended Portfolio weightings. As you can see, this weekend was the fourth profitable weekend for such Investors.

Turning next to the team-by-team performance across the Funds:

HERITAGE FUND							ALPHA FUND						
	Bets	Win	Loss	% Outlayed	ROI	% RONF		Bets	Win	Loss %	Outlayed	ROI	% RONI
Adelaide	1	1	0	9.8%	180.0%	17.6%	Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Brisbane Lions	1	1	0	3.7%	145.0%	5.3%	Brisbane Lions	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Carlton	4	1	3	17.8%	(12.2%)	(2.2%)	Carlton	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Collingwood	1	1	0	5.1%	195.0%	9.9%	Collingwood	1	1	0	2.5%	40.0%	1.0%
Essendon	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Essendon	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fremantle	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Fremantle	1	1	0	2.7%	86.0%	2.3%
Geelong	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Geelong	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hawthorn	4	3	1	22.1%	68.6%	15.1%	Hawthorn	1	1	0	1.6%	120.0%	1.9%
Kangaroos	3	2	1	12.9%	73.7%	9.5%	Kangaroos	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Melbourne	3	0	3	20.8%	(100.0%)	(20.8%)	Melbourne	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Port Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Port Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Richmond	3	0	3	24.0%	(100.0%)	(24.0%)	Richmond	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
St Kilda	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	St Kilda	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sydney	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Sydney	1	1	0	7.3%	65.0%	4.8%
West Coast	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	West Coast	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Western Bulldogs	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Western Bulldogs	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	20	9	11	116.0%	9.0%	10.4%	Total	4	4	0	14.1%	70.8%	10.0%

otal	4	2	2	11.5%	(38.5%)	(4.4%)	Total	10	3	7	74.8%	(33.1%)	(24.8%)
estern Bulldogs	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Western Bulldogs	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
est Coast	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	West Coast	1	0	1	11.2%	(100.0%)	(11.2%)
ydney	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Sydney	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
t Kilda	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	St Kilda	1	0	1	7.8%	(100.0%)	(7.8%)
ichmond	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Richmond	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ort Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Port Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
lelbourne	1	0	1	4.1%	(100.0%)	(4.1%)	Melbourne	1	0	1	7.8%	(100.0%)	(7.8%
angaroos	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Kangaroos	1	1	0	7.8%	90.0%	7.0%
awthorn	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Hawthorn	2	1	1	15.6%	(5.1%)	(0.8%
eelong	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Geelong	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
remantle	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Fremantle	1	0	1	5.9%	(100.0%)	(5.9%
sendon	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Essendon	1	0	1	5.0%	(100.0%)	(5.0%
ollingwood	2	1	1	5.4%	(35.4%)	(1.9%)	Collingwood	2	1	1	13.7%	8.2%	1.1%
arlton	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Carlton	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
risbane Lions	1	1	0	2.0%	80.0%	1.6%	Brisbane Lions	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
delaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Adelaide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bets	Win	Loss	% Outlayed	ROI	% RONF		Bets	Win	Loss	% Outlayed	ROI	% ROI
ETA FUND							LINE FUND						

 Chi tips the round and moves to within 1 tip of MM16 and 2 tips of the lead.

An Extraordinary Round!

It seems I was a little loose in suggesting that the fact that all eight matches this past weekend involved a team inside the 8 taking on a team outside the 8 was merely "a phenomenally rare occurrence". Having now done the stats, it turns out that the probability is actually about 1 in 6,435, which means that there's only about a 50% chance that it'll happen again in the next 203 seasons (assuming they're all 22 rounds long). "Phenomenally rare" hardly does that justice.

And, speaking of extraordinary performances: Chi tipped the round this weekend, becoming the first tipster on our roster to do so this year, and moving him to within 1 tip of MM16 and 2 tips of the lead, now held by BKB, which tipped 7.

Amongst the other MM tipsters, MM16 managed only 4 this weekend, along with MM2, MM4 and MM22. Tipsters MM6, MM8 and MM11 fared only a little better, each bagging 5.

Meantime, Quila lifted her performance considerably in tipping 7. Here's the detail:

Results of Tips from all the Tipping Models (see Appendix for each Model's strategy)

	Ade v Ric	Ess v Bri	Gee v Fre	Haw v StK	Kan v Car	Syd v PA	WB v Col	WC v Mel
CTM	Ade by 14	Ess by 5	Gee by 12	Haw by 7	Kan by 4	Syd by 13	WB by 2	WC by 18
QTM	Ade by 14	Ess by 1	Gee by 11	Haw by 10	Kan by 7	Syd by 11	Col by 3	WC by 22
ВКВ	Ade by 32.5	Ess by 6.5	Gee by 18.5	StK by 6.5	Kan by 11.5	Syd by 7.5	Bulldogs by 6.5	WC by 29.
CTL	Adelaide	Brisbane	Geelong	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM2	Adelaide	Brisbane	Geelong	St Kilda	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM4	Adelaide	Brisbane	Fremantle	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM6	Adelaide	Brisbane	Geelong	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM8	Adelaide	Brisbane	Geelong	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM11	Adelaide	Essendon	Fremantle	Hawthorn	Kangaroos	Port Adelaide	Collingwood	West Coas
MM16	Adelaide	Brisbane	Fremantle	St Kilda	Kangaroos	Sydney	Collingwood	West Coas
MM22	Adelaide	Brisbane	Fremantle	St Kilda	Kangaroos	Sydney	Collingwood	West Coas
NIT	Adelaide (11-0)	Brisbane (7-4)	Geelong (7-4)	Hawthorn (7-4)	Kangaroos (11-0)	Port Adelaide (6-5)	Collingwood (9-2)	West Coast (11-
ine Be	tting							
Chi	Richmond	Brisbane	Fremantle	Hawthorn	Carlton	Sydney	Collingwood	Melbourne
Quila	Richmond	Brisbane	Fremantle	Hawthorn	Carlton	Sydney	Collingwood	Melbourne

That leaves the cumulative position looking like this:

Cumulative Tipping Results

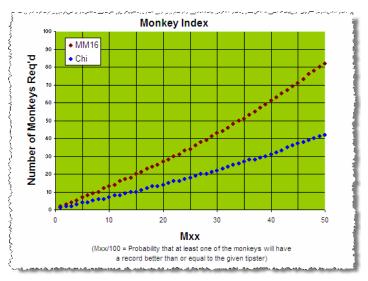
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	Cum	% Correct	Av Pred Err
ВКВ	43	67.2%	27.41
MM16	42	65.6%	-
СТМ	41	64.1%	27.44
MM4	37	57.8%	-
MM8	37	57.8%	-
MM22	37	57.8%	-
QTM	36	56.3%	28.50
MM6	35	54.7%	-
NIT	35	54.7%	-
MM11	34	53.1%	-
CTL	32	50.0%	-
MM2	29	45.3%	-

So, Chi is now getting closer to his long-term average tipping percentage of around 70%, and his Average Prediction Error, which now stands at 27.44 points per game, is exceptionally good.

Quila still has a bit of work to do if she hopes to topple the Master Tipster this year, though this week's 7 from 8 has at least lifted her to within 1 tip of the Top 4.

MM2 has, incredibly, done worse than what you'd expect if it'd simply tossed a coin. In fact, there's only about a 27% chance that, by tipping a coin, you'd have done as well or worse.

With his perfect weekend of tipping, Chi has finally produced evidence that he's a better tipster than a monkey:



Reading from this chart we can see that you'd now need at least 7 monkeys in order for the probability to be 10% that at least one of those 7 monkeys would have the same or a better tipping record than Chi. If, instead, you demanded a higher level of primate proof, reflected in the fact that you wanted a band of monkeys sufficiently large that the probability was 50% that at least one of them matched or beat Chi's performance, then you'd need at least 42 randomly-tipping monkeys (at which point it seems appropriate to nod deferentially towards the late Douglas Adams).

Speaking of Chi, I should also point out that both he and Quila successfully completed the 5 kilometre Million Paws Walk at Homebush Bay this afternoon. Accompanying them on the walk were all manner of dog breeds, ranging from a chihuahua that looked at though its owner had mistakenly attached a lead to a charm from her bracelet to a canine that could comfortably seat four passengers with plenty of legroom for each. (Seriously, its back was at the level of my chest. I've seen shorter jockeys ...).





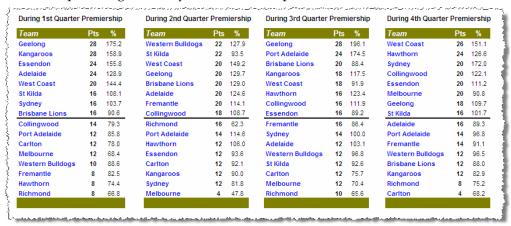
The Alternative Premierships

This week Geelong has snatched the lead in the first two of the End of Quarter Premierships, and has moved into 2nd and 3rd in the other two, in both of which, West Coast leads with 7 wins from 8 games. Meantime Melbourne continues to distinguish itself by never having led a contest at any change other than the first.



In the other Alternative Premierships, the Western Bulldogs lead the During the 2^{nd} Quarter Premiership, having won 5 and drawn 1 of their 2^{nd} quarters, while Geelong leads the During the 3^{rd} Quarter Premiership, having won all but one of their 3^{rd} quarters.

West Coast continues to head the During the 4th Quarter Premiership, with the Hawks just 2 points away. Melbourne, surprisingly, aren't too far away either, having won 5 of their final terms. In contrast, Carlton are languishing in this Premiership, having won only 1 of their final quarters this season.



In next Thursday's Newsletter I want to come back to the issue of the imbalance in the draw, and introduce some of the techniques that we might draw on later in the year to measure the effect of this imbalance.

'til Thursday.

Tony

Appendix

Tipping Model Strategies

Strategy Name	Basis for Tips
Chi Tipping Model (CTM)	Complex statistical model incorporating a range of factors.
Quila Tipping Model (QTM)	Uses an approach similar to that used for the CTM.
Bookies Know Best (BKB)	For each game, tips the TAB Sportsbet favourite. In the case of equal favourites, it tips the true home team or, if there's no true home team, tips the team with the higher ladder position (ties are broken using percentage then for-and-against margin).
Consult The Ladder (CTL)	Tips the team with the higher ladder position (ties are broken using percentage then for-and-against margin). For the first round of the season, use the ladder position at the end of the previous regular season.
Momentum Matters (MMx)	A series of strategies that involve building competition ladders based only on the results of the most recent x rounds of regular season games (drawing on games from the previous season if required).
	The MM2 strategy considers only the last 2 regular season rounds, the MM4 strategy only the last 4 rounds, and so on. Once a ladder has been built for a strategy, the selected team is that with the superior ladder position (as per CTL above).
	This year we'll track the performance of MM2, MM4, MM6, MM8, MM11, MM16 and MM22.
No Independent Thought (NIT)	Tips the team that is most popular amongst all other strategies.

Notional Initial Funds

For reasons that are somewhat technical (I'm happy to provide details to anyone who's interested but, broadly, it allows me to describe bets in terms of a common percentage for all Investors and still maintain the same share price for all Investors), I need to calculate what I call "Notional Initial Funds". It's calculated separately for each Fund.

For original Investors, the definition is straightforward:

Notional Initial Funds = Actual Funds Invested

For Investors who join the Fund post Round 1:

Notional Initial Funds = Actual Funds Invested / Share Price at the time of investing

(in other words, it's the notional amount that would need to have been invested at the start of the season in order to have returned an amount equal to the amount actually invested).